

## How to be a Better parent

**Intro:** Remember the story of the little boy that went into the store and told the grocer that he needed a box of tide. What do you need a box of tide for, and the little boy said I'm gonna wash my cat. Son, he said, I think tide is a little strong for a cat. But the boy was insistent so he sold it to him. A week later the boy was back in the store. The grocer saw him and said, "Son, how's your cat doing." My cat's dead, he said. Well, the grocer replied, I told you tide was too strong for him." Oh I don't think it was the tide, said the little boy, I think it was the spin cycle that did him in.

John Wilmot said, "Before I was married I had three theories about raising children. Now I have three children and no theories.

### Be your child's best friend

*Ironically a recent survey of teens indicated what they do when they have a problem.*

Several years ago, USA Today published the eye-opening results of a study of teens under stress. When asked where they turn to for help in a crisis, the most popular choice was music, the second choice was peers, and the third was TV. Amazing as it may sound, moms were down the list at number thirty-one, and dads were forty-eighth. Such accounts reveal a failure of parents to develop a strong bond of trust and communication through the formative years.

*Dorothy Law Nolte once wrote down these thoughts...*

*If a child lives with criticism, He learns to condemn.*

*If a child lives with hostility, He learns to fight.*

*If a child lives with ridicule, He learns to be shy.*

*If a child lives with shame, He learns to feel guilty.*

*If a child lives with tolerance, He learns to be patient.*

*If a child lives with encouragement, He learns confidence.*

*If a child lives with praise, He learns to appreciate.*

*If a child lives with fairness, He learns justice.*

*If a child lives with security, He learns to have faith.*

*If a child lives with approval, He learns to like himself.*

*If a child lives with acceptance and friendship,*

*He learns to find love in the world.*

**Children need not only "quality" time; they need "quantity" time.**

**Important to spend time with them to play, to have fun together, and to listen when they are ready to talk.**

**Communication needs to be:**

*Loving and respectful (Considers the needs and feelings of others)*

*Free-flowing (Those in the relationship feel comfortable expressing themselves).*

*Honest (It is possible to speak truthfully without feeling threatened or the communication being cut off).*

*Open (It addresses the needs and concerns of all in a relationship. Children should be able to approach us about whatever their needs or concerns dictate.)*

*Edifying (The goal of all communication should be mutual understanding and growth through that understanding. Each person knowing how to please or meet the needs of the others person or how to respect their wishes. Through good communication conflict and problems can be solved.)*

### **Be your child's cheerleader**

*I chose this word carefully because it may reveal the attitude that parents need toward their children. Have you ever thought about the attitude displayed by cheerleaders?*

**Cheerleaders celebrate every victory, large or small. Every first down is cheered.**

**Cheerleaders urge great effort when weakness is demonstrated. The other team may be running over the defense; but they keep on cheering "hold that line".**

**Cheerleaders never quit believing that their team can win. The score may be 40 to nothing at the end of the third quarter; but the cheerleaders are still urging their team to win.**

*It is this quality that parents must have toward their children. It is the power of using our words to edify them.*

**Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear. (Ephesians 4:29)**

**Praise them for every victory, large or small.**

**Urge them to keep trying when they fail.**

**Don't ever give up on them!**

*There was a mom who just had a terrible son. And a friend said to her, "I don't know how you put up with him; if he was my son I wouldn't have anything to do with him." And the mom said, "Yes, I would too, if he was your son, but you see he's my son, and I'll hold onto him and love him, and hope and pray that someday he'll come back to his senses."*

### **Be your children's moral compass**

*Correct your son, and he will give you comfort; He will also delight your soul. (Prov. 29:17)*

*And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:4)*

*Parents, if you are not clearly outlining your values and morals as the foundation of your children's lives, then you must ask yourself, who is?*

**And the answer is: friends, tv and other media**

**We can't pass the spiritual education of your children to others.**

**Help them acquire a thirst for spiritual truth**

**Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22:6)**

**You might be surprised to learn that the root word of “train up” in the Hebrew is a word used to describe the palate or the roof of the mouth. It was used to describe the actions of a Hebrew mid-wife who after helping to deliver a baby would dip her finger in a paste made of dates and rub it on the gums of the new baby to create thirst and start the baby’s feeding instinct. (Charles Swindoll. You and Your Child.**

***Take active steps to insure that they know the truth about everything!***

### **Be your child’s protector**

***The rod and reproof give wisdom, But a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother. (Prov. 29:15)***

***How to bring up a juvenile delinquent***

- 1. Begin with infancy to give the child everything he wants. In this way he will grow up to believe the world owes him a living.**
- 2. When he picks up bad words, laugh at him. This will make him think that it is cute.**
- 3. Never give him any spiritual training. Wait until he is twenty-one and then let him “decide for himself.”**
- 4. Avoid use of the word “wrong.” It may develop a guilt complex. This will condition him to believe later, when he is arrested for stealing a car, that society is against him and he is being persecuted.**
- 5. Pick up everything he leaves lying around. Do everything for him so that he will be experienced in throwing all responsibility on others.**
- 6. Let him read any printed matter he can get his hands on. Be careful, that the silverware and drinking glasses are sterilized, but let his mind feast on garbage.**
- 7. Quarrel frequently in the presence of your children. In this way they won’t be shocked when the home is broken up later.**
- 8. Give a child all the spending money he wants. Never let him earn his own.**
- 9. Satisfy his every craving for food, drink and comfort. See that every sensual desire is gratified.**
- 10. Take his part against neighbors, teachers and policemen. They are all prejudiced against your child.**
- 11. When he gets into real trouble, apologize for yourself by saying, “I never could do anything with him.”**
- 12. Prepare for a life of grief. You will likely have it. [Quoted by Charles Swindoll. You and Your Child. (Nashville, Nelson Pub., 1977) pp. 63-64.]**

***Rediscover your right to say “no”!***

**Consider a couple of renegade boys in the Bible (Hophni and Phinehas)**

*“For I have told him that I am about to judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knew, because his sons brought a curse on themselves and he did not rebuke them. (1 Samuel 3:13)*

*Then later Adonijah committed the consummate action of rebellion in Israel, seeking to become king of Israel in defiance of his father David’s clear directive.*

*Now Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, “I will be king.” So he prepared for himself chariots and horsemen with fifty men to run before him. And his father had never crossed him at any time by asking, “Why have you done so?” And he was also a very handsome man; and he was born after Absalom. (1 Kings 1:5-6)*

**The life-saving "no"**

*Discipline your son while there is hope, and do not desire his death. (Prov. 19:18)*

**The moral "no"**

*Say “no” to the herd mentality*

*Say “no” to evil media influences*

**The priority "no"**

**The challenging "no"**

*Say “no” to wasted and inefficient use of time*

*Say “no” to the easy path when the hard path produces the greater growth*

**Conclusion: When we follow the principles of God’s word, we are rewarded with a happy relationship with our children and a sense of satisfaction in their spiritual and earthly accomplishments.**

**A wise son makes a father glad, But a foolish son is a grief to his mother. (Prov. 10:1)**

**He who begets a fool does so to his sorrow, And the father of a fool has no joy. (Prov. 17:21)**